

ATCHISON COUNTY REPUBLICANS.

The platform adopted by the Atchison county republican convention April 16, like all republican and democratic platforms, is constructed for the deception of voters. Its declaration upon the financial question is a meaningless jumble of words put together in such a way that it may be interpreted to suit the variety of tastes of different localities and individuals. It is perfect nonsense to talk of the "coinage of gold and silver mines of the United States into legal tender coins upon such a ratio as to preserve their parity of values, without inflation for the benefit of the speculator in farm produce, or gold or stocks, nor a contraction for the use of bond-holders at home or abroad." Anybody with a thimbleful of brains knows that every dollar coined by the government, without regard to the material of which it is composed, will always remain at a parity with every other dollar, so long as the government itself does not discriminate against it. What do Kansas republicans mean to say upon this question? Are they in favor of the free coinage of gold and silver at the old ratio of 16 to 1, or are they not? Are they in favor of an increase of the currency such as will revive commerce and trade and serve the interests of the masses of the American people, or are they in favor of the continuance of the policy of contraction that has paralyzed every industry in the land? Are they in favor of an American system of finance, or of the continuance of the British system, as maintained by the Cleveland-Sherman combination? Why don't they tell what they favor in plain English so that there can be no mistake about it? Simply because plain English in their platforms would deprive them of this means of deceiving the people.

The Atchison republicans cry aloud for the republican system of protection to American labor—the most arrant humbug of the age. Hypocrisy and deceit are the sole reliance of the politicians of this party that seeks to "redeem Kansas."

NOTHING BUT DECEPTION.

It is hard to believe in these days (when a state official is employed apparently for the purpose of generously advertising to the world that Kansas as a farming country is a dead and ruinous failure) that there was a time, less than twenty-five years ago, when the governor, in his message, enlarged on the garden-like productiveness of the state, recounted with pride the triumphs of the farmer called out to "speed the plow," and urged that all means be used to forward immigration; when, moreover, the railroad companies not only proclaimed but demonstrated the fertility of their acres by exhibition in half the windows of Kansas of great ears of corn, sheaves of wheat, one of which would have been a fortune to the gleaner Ruth; great red apples, and everything that goes to fill Cere's horn of plenty in the pictures. Kansas with a farmer governor was then given "bold advertisement" as pre-eminently the farmer's state; and everybody mocked the old geographers and their stories of the "American Desert."—Kansas City Star, April 17.

The above is a fair specimen of the manner in which the press of the old parties treats the facts relating to the depression of agriculture in common with every other industry in

the world. Without going into any discussion of the merits of Mr. Todd's statistics upon the subject, we assume it as a fact that no one but an ignoramus or a knave will pretend to deny, that there is no profit in farming under present conditions. Not because the farms do not produce abundantly, but because there is not a profitable market for what they produce. Let any fair-minded man of any party read the above quotation from the Star and then answer us if in his honest judgment it is not written with a deliberate purpose to deceive the people respecting the attitude of those who say that farming under present conditions does not pay. Who ever pretended that it was because of a want of productiveness that there is no profit in the business? The Star, in fact, claims that overproduction is what is causing the depression. From day to day the great daily papers of both parties are filled with just such rot as this, written for no other purpose under heaven than to attempt to deceive the people. There is no such thing as a fair discussion of any public question in their columns. The whole study of their editorial writers is how they can most successfully hoodwink the people.

THERE are two classes of people who attribute the existing depression of all industries, the low prices of all products, the enforced idleness, the hard times everywhere prevalent, and the vast amount of human misery resulting from privation and want, to an overproduction of food and clothing and the other good things that are designed to administer to the comfort and happiness of mankind. These two classes consist of fools and knaves. The fools don't know any better and the knaves think the people don't know any better, and can be fooled by such rot and thereby induced to give the old parties "one more chance."

THE Lawrence World observes that the Fort Scott Monitor has made the remarkable discovery that the opposition to Funston for congressman from the second district is because other candidates want the place themselves. The World might have added that perhaps the opposition of Funston to the other candidates is because he wants the place himself. Inasmuch as this seems to be the chief motive of all the republican candidates the Populists of the second district have decided to send a representative to the next congress whose motive will be to try to do something for the benefit of the people.

THE Cleveland organ in this city is very much disturbed over the prospect that the Kansas railroad commissioners will reduce the freight rates on Kansas railroads. It has made a good deal of bluster in time past, because of the failure of the Greenlee bill to become a law, as it would have its readers believe, on account of Populist opposition. The Capital is a great reformer when there is no prospect of the adoption of any reform. When there is such

a prospect, and the source of its revenues is likely to be effected thereby, its hypocrisy is at once manifest.

REPUBLICAN editors and politicians are making a great deal of fuss to "redeem Kansas" from a party that has been dead and buried as long as the Populist party has. They are so anxious about this redemption that the Capital and other leading republican journals say there must be no other issue in the platform. If the Populist party is so everlastingly dead, what kind of a condition must the republican party be in when it fears to place a single vital question before the people upon which to make a campaign?

NO MATTER who is nominated for governor by the republican party, he will be a good man.—Emporia Gazette, April 16.

Very likely, in the estimation of republican ringsters and editors. If it is the devil himself, it will make no difference with them. On the other hand, it does not matter who is nominated by an opposing party, he will be a bad man in the estimation of the same gang.

THE Emporia Republican is opposed to equal suffrage, and in accord with the spirit which characterizes it in its opposition to anything with which it disagrees, it is unable to treat the subject, except in a style that is an insult to all womankind. Its low-down blackguardism is worthy of nothing but contempt.

GOVERNMENT BANKING.
NO. IV.

Communicated.

The Review of Reviews for April says editorially:

The protection of the yeomanry from the ruinous exactions of the money-lender seems to be a matter of anxiety in several widely-parted states. Greece has ventured to start a government bank for lending money to fruit-growers at a yearly interest not exceeding 8 per cent. At the Antipodes the government of Victoria has determined on advancing from the savings bank small loans at 5 per cent. per annum to farmers, in order to enable them to improve their estates. New Zealand has resolved on a similar fostering policy. This elimination of Shylock by the states taking his place, is a measure which might, if successful, effect a most salutary revolution in the economies of agriculture. Even if the borrower succumbed to what has been too often his fate hitherto, and the state from creditor and mortgagee became ultimately proprietor, the community, instead of the individual money-lenders would be the gainer and the accumulation of land in a few hands would be further off than ever.

While these reflections had especial reference to Greece and Australasia, they are applicable to the United States. And if the agriculturist would be better off as debtor to his nation, so would the artisan, the merchant, and the manufacturer. But debt is the abnormal, not the normal condition. To establish all business upon a cash basis, and to enable the people to become free from debt, both as individuals and as members of the bodies politic, is part of the Populist creed. With 30 billion dollars of debts and a greatly contracted, highly-appreciated currency, this is surely a Herculean task to which thoughtful Americans have applied themselves.

When we demand that the circulating medium be increased in volume, we should have some definite plan by which to get the money into the channels of

business. Such a plan is furnished in a government banking system. The simple increase of the money volume will do good only temporarily unless the present system of banking be changed.

A per capita basis is not the best. It will either furnish more money than is needed where business is quiet, or will furnish too little when crops are being moved and business is active. A per capita basis adequate for an agricultural community is inadequate for a manufacturing community because everything used by the laborer or artisan is paid for in cash. He does not bartering. He receives cash; he pays cash. The farmer, on the other hand, dispenses with money to a considerable extent, by exchanging butter, eggs, poultry, meat, hides, grain, etc., for groceries, implements and other goods.

In your issue of March 21, H. E. Teachout insists that we have a flexible currency now. But he neglects to state that its inflation and contraction is wholly determined by bankers while the people have nothing to say. The supply is not increased to meet the needs of the people but to suit the money changers.

Mr. Teachout fears a deluge of money. He forgets that under a cash system, money must replace the bank paper of to-day. When a loan is made by a government bank it is error to suppose that new paper will be continually issued. An unlimited currency is a worthless currency. But the amount should be limited by demand for use. No one is going to pay 4 per cent. interest upon money unless he can invest it in some productive industry, or in order to save his home from wreck. According to the report of the comptroller of the currency for 1891, the deposits in the various banks of the United States were not far from 5 billion dollars. In a short time after the establishment of a government banking system, all of this and much more would be deposited in the government banks. Having confidence in the stability of the government, the people would not lock up their savings in safety deposit vaults, bury them in the ground, nor hide them in old stockings. All money would be put in the banks. Panics and runs would have "joined the troubadour and the mound-builder." The man who borrowed money would spend it immediately; and at once it would again be deposited in the bank, to be loaned out. As now, so then, the same money would be loaned over and over again.

The thrifty man who desires a savings bank would find it in the government bank. Nor would he need to lose sleep over the possible failure of a bank sustained by the whole people. Drafts could be obtained at low rates in order to make payments anywhere. As the cash basis came into use the loan feature would die out. Government banking is a step toward the inevitable nationalism. J. C. RUPPENTHAL, Jr.

Florida.

"Beauties of the East Coast," is the title of a magnificently illustrated book giving desirable information relative to the famous winter resorts of Florida. It is the most attractive description of Florida resorts and scenery ever published. Copies of the book may be had by calling at the Grand Junction ticket office, Kansas City, or will be mailed free. Address, J. E. Lockwood, G. P. A. Memphis route, Kansas City, Mo.

The WESTERN TRAIL is published quarterly by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway. It tells how to get a farm in the west, and it will be sent to you gratis for one year. Send name and address to "Editor Western Trail, Chicago," and receive it one year free. JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A.

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